

COURT

'I had no choice but to leave my house'

FROM PAGE 1

But he didn't fire that gun until the Molotov cocktail — at least three of the improvised devices had been thrown at his home already — came through his kitchen window.

"I had no choice but to leave my house."

Thomson was testifying in his own defence during his trial in a Welland courtroom last week. The 54-year-old is charged with two counts of careless storage of firearms.

Thomson's attorney, Ed Burlew, of Thornhill, had his client take the stand after the Crown had concluded its case. The Crown called two Niagara Regional Police constables and a sergeant to testify.

Burlew first went through Thomson's plan as it related to fleeing. As a member of the Canadian Air Force, where he received training in operating long guns, handguns, machine guns and various other weapons, Thomson went on to teach courses in Canadian firearms safety and a Canadian restricted firearms safety course for the Canadian Firearms Centre. He taught hunter safety courses in Ontario and was a firearms instructor. He even worked with a former NRP firearms training officer.

"On Aug. 22, 2010, were you licensed to have all those guns and were they registered?" Burlew asked his client.

"Yes," said Thomson. Burlew then asked the man

to walk through the events of that morning.

It was about 6:30 a.m. and Thomson was asleep in his bedroom, but starting to wake up.

"It was raining outside and I heard a car go by. I didn't think much of it, I thought it was my neighbour at the end of the road."

Thomson's home is only one of three on a rural road in northeast Port Colborne.

When the car passed by again, he thought it was his neighbour had forgotten

something, but a few moments later, he heard a pop, or explosion, outside his house. "At that time I was a walk and I saw a flickering of a flame outside by my bathroom. I thought maybe my hot tub had an electrical fire."

He stood up to look outside his bedroom window, which was wide open at the time, and was shocked to see a person in dark clothing and wearing a balaclava standing in his backyard.

"I yelled at him to get off of my property ... he started screaming back at me."

On three videos played in court on Monday, one of the people attacking Thomson's home can be heard screaming, in a voice filled with

anger, asking Thomson if he was ready to die and telling him to move out. The pops of the gun were clearly heard in the home and landing near a dog run can be heard, and flames can be seen as they exploded.

Twice Thomson tried to call 911 but couldn't get his phone to work. He threw the phone on the bed before running to his computer room where his gun safe, filled with a number of handguns, long guns and ammunition, was located.

Once he had the .38, he ran to the front door.

On one video played for the court, which had about 17 people in the courtroom, Thomson could be seen firing the gun outside his front, dressed only in his underwear as a fire burned beside him.

Thomson had 12 high-quality video cameras covering all angles of his property. He went back inside to reload his .38 and to grab a 9-mm handgun from his safe.

"I loaded that gun in my bedroom, called 911 and went back outside to put the fire out. The .38 was tucked inside my coat," he said.

Once the fire was out, he went back inside to put on jeans and a raincoat. The .38 went into the raincoat pocket and was there when police and firefighters arrived on scene. Burlew asked why Thomson grabbed the second gun before police arrived. "I had no idea if those criminals were coming back ... my

bedroom was my last line of defence ... I made sure I was well-armed."

Burlew asked Thomson where the gun was before the incident started, and Thomson said they were in his bedroom.

When police arrived, the .38 was still on Thomson, but Thomson tossed it on his bed when he went to put a shirt on. Once police had viewed video of the attack, Thomson

knew there'd be an issue with the firearm and told Const. Darlene Millin, one of the commanding officers, that he had discharged one in the attack.

Millin went outside to speak Sgt. Richard Brouwer, who was an acting sergeant at the time, and the two came back into the home.

"He (Brouwer) said, 'Show me the gun.' I took them to my bedroom."



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Ian Thomson, left, and his lawyer Ed Burlew walk out of the Welland courthouse after the first day of Thomson's trial on two charges of careless storage of firearms.

At issue was the location of the second gun, the 9-mm. handgun that Thomson had.

Millin said the gun was in the bed with the .38, while Brouwer testified Thomson pulled the 9-mm from a nightstand and removed the clip.

Related story: Access to ammo at issue in Thomson case. Page 3

FINANCE

Council able to lower tax hike through debenturing \$500,000 of roads

FROM PAGE 1

Mayor Vance Badaway admitted he's not satisfied with the budget, as council always "tries to shoot for inflation."

"But there's a reality to that," he said. "It's the cost of doing business."

"There's no questions that we made a lot of cuts and changes, but I don't think a lot will be seen in

the day-to-day community," Badaway said.

It's a matter of finding a balance between the services people expect to receive and the cost required to provide them, he added.

As the 2012 budget process kick-started the city's service audit, Badaway is confident Port Colborne will identify further efficiencies in the coming months.

Though council had to see a tax levy increase closer to inflation, prior to Christmas, Badaway was able to lower the tax hike to a more reasonable number to work with.

It was through approval

of debenturing \$500,000 of roads funding that the council was able to lower the tax hike to a more reasonable number to work with.

During the meeting, Badaway reiterated that debenturing the funds would not have an impact on the city's budget, despite that seeming to be a fear floating throughout the community.

The funds are being borrowed under low interest rates, which is a benefit to both the city and community, Senese said, calling the debenture a "cash-flow mechanism."

Though the debenture's annual cost of \$35,000 will be repaid through the tax base, with the intent of the existing roads budget, meaning no impact to taxpayers, Senese said.

"It's self-financing," Badaway added.

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portraits

■ **COURT:** Firebombing victim's careless storage of firearms trial to resume in spring

Access to ammo at issue in Thomson case

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Ian Thomson never wanted to be called attorney Bob Maher, but his testimony and credibility into question during an hour-and-a-half of cross-examination on Day 2 of his trial.

Thomson, on trial for two careless storage of firearms charges, took the stand in Courtroom 1 Tuesday. Thomson is being tried by judge alone, in this case Judge Tony Colvin.

Again and again Maher had Thomson, who previously admitted to firing three shots the morning his Port Colborne home was firebombed, go over the timeline of events on the morning of Aug. 22, 2010. He also called into question a video re-enactment Thomson made of the events.

He was determined to protect his safety and that required him to have the firearms and ammunition at the ready."

Crown attorney Bob Maher

Thomson said from the time of the first pop of a Molotov cocktail breaking against the back of his home to the time he made it to his front door was 38.04 seconds.

"In you re-enactment we can't see you do anything ... we can't see you try and call 911 to relieve your safe key," said Maher.

The Crown attorney said Thomson's own surveillance video shows the first pop against his house at 6:37:00 a.m., but the first shot wasn't fired until 6:37:50 a.m. With Thomson's video re-enact-

ment taking just more than 38 seconds, Maher said there was a gap in the timeline.

"If you say so, I can't be sure if it was five or 10 seconds, but it could be 20 seconds," said Thomson, who didn't agree with a statement by the Crown that the video re-enactment was of little use.

Maher also questioned why Thomson didn't grab one of his more powerful guns when he went to his gun safe. Thomson used a five-shot .38-calibre handgun during the attack.

"I grabbed the first gun in my safe," Thomson replied.

The Crown attorney also asked with the severity of the situation, if Thomson's fine motor skills were impaired during the attack and whether it was hard to load the .38-calibre revolver.

Thomson said the gun was easy to load as he had his hands free from the gun. It was stored in the front door and said his fine motor skills were not impaired during his stressful situation.

As court had previously heard, after Thomson fired three shots, he headed back into his home, went to his bedroom, put three fresh rounds into the .38 and then went into an inner room to grab his .45 Browning and two clips, one a 10-round and the other a 14-round.

Using video footage previously played in court, Maher said there was a time frame of only 22 seconds between the time Thomson shot, went back in and reloaded, grabbed the other gun, came back out to put out one of the calls and call 911. He said there was no way Thomson could have done all that in that time frame.

He suggested Thomson already had the guns in his nightstand beside his bed.

Thomson flatly denied that and said the guns were taken



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Ian Thomson leaves the Welland courthouse after the second day of his trial on two counts of careless storage of firearms. Thomson won't know his fate until at least May. Court will reconvene on Wednesday, May 2, when Ed Burlew, Thomson's lawyer, makes a final argument in the case.

from the safe.

Ed Burlew, Thomson's lawyer, objected to some of Maher's questioning and asked him to go over the same material and badgering his client.

Judge Colvin agreed that Maher seemed to be going over the same ground. Maher cut off his questioning and

court took a recess.

After the break, Burlew re-examined Thomson before two lawyers moved on to their clients.

Burlew said the Crown failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Thomson's guns were illegally stored. He said Niagara Regional Police Sgt. Richard

Brouwer, during testimony Monday, asked Thomson why he had two guns in his night table. Thomson had responded "because of situations like this ... I need them."

"It's an ambiguous question that Mr. Thomson answered. Brouwer came to the conclusion the guns were readily accessible," said Burlew.

He went on to say Brouwer admitted, under cross-examination, that Thomson could have meant that statement in the present tense — that the guns were there after the attack on his home.

Burlew asked Colvin to acquit his client on all charges.

Maher asked Colvin to find Thomson guilty and said there were two ways to find him so.

He said the timing issues showed it was impossible for Thomson to do some of the things he claimed.

"He was determined to protect his safety and that required him to have the firearms and ammunition at the ready," said Maher.

As for Brouwer's testimony about Thomson's statement, the Crown said that, too, showed the man had the guns at the ready.

Maher also cited case law and sections of the Criminal Code of Canada regarding the availability of ammunition in relation to firearms.

He said the ammunition was readily available to Thomson, there were some 61 rounds in the night table, even though ammunition is supposed to be stored separately from firearms.

"He's obliged to have the ammunition locked up as well," said Maher.

After Maher was finished, and asked Colvin to find Thomson guilty on both counts, Burlew had one more chance to speak before the judge.

The lawyer from Thornhill wanted to cite case law regarding ammunition and availability, but did not defend against Maher's argument. The judge agreed to allow Burlew to gather what he needed and meet at another date.

All parties will be back in court on Wednesday, May 2, at 2:15 p.m.

INPORT NEWS

Published by InPort News
Sun Media Corp.

228 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario, L3B 5P5
Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660

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ourview

Making waves

We're happy to see Port Colborne and BoarderPass Niagara will link a contract to bring a wakeboarding facility to the city.

BoarderPass Niagara will install an innovative cable system at Sugarloaf Harbour south of the restaurant and in a westerly direction toward the boat ramp.

The company, which made a proposal to council last month, will fund the entire operation, with the city receiving a portion of the revenue that can be put back into marina operations.

Gary Makins, Port Colborne's manager of community services, said the wakeboarding system will not interfere with any operations at the boat ramp or marina and we're glad to hear that.

With the location inside the breakwall, there should be no interruption from high waves, and wakeboarders spending time at city's premiere restaurant of H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park can view the action.

The hope is to have the system up and running by the Victoria Day long weekend May 19 to 21. The city is already looking into planning a demonstration for Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, taking place this year from Aug. 3 to Aug. 6.

Both wakeboarding and wakeskating will be offered — the latter of which has participants riding their boards without having their feet strapped in.

This system was once proposed for Welland and its recreational waterway, but for whatever reason never took hold in the Blue City.

We see it as a loss for that city and a big gain for Port Colborne.

This system requires no boat and just about anyone can pick it up. Makins tried it himself recently and said, "It's easy to use, easy to learn."

Another thing we like about this deal is that a Wainfleet resident is involved with it.

Amanda Newhouse has spent the past two summers coaching wakeboarding in the Muskoka area, where she met business partners Chris Smith and Tim Nixon — owners of BoarderPass Santa, the only cable wakeboarding facility in southern Ontario.

Not one to pass up an opportunity, Newhouse immediately approached the pair about bringing their innovative system to Niagara.

It's good to see the two saw merit in her proposal and are bringing the system here.

She also said the city has been "super progressive and supportive" since jumping on board in November.

We can't wait for it to open.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

Just take the next step

PASTOR JEEVA SAM
Forks Road East and
Morgan's Point United Churches

She was one of 46 women who took up the challenge to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise awareness of the evil of human trafficking www.thefreedomclimb.net.

Fresh from completing this amazing exercise in faith and endurance, Regine Hüttnér, a native of Germany and currently a resident of Port Colborne, shared how she was able to make it all the way to the summit known as Uhuru Peak (Uhuru, in Swahili, means "freedom").

"I had nothing left in me physically by the time we got to the last leg of the climb," she recalled. "It was more a test of whether or not I had the mental strength necessary to take the next step upward." The beckoning peak looked too difficult to scale even at such close quarters. She could not focus on making it to the top. She had to be reminded to take one step first, followed in slow succession by the next step and then another one. She described how when she decided to take that first step, it was as though God took over and helped her take the next step. This process continued for three agonizingly long hours before she could experience the

exhilaration of reaching the summit.

Regine is not alone in longing for nothing more than "the next step" along life's journey. In 1833, a young Anglo-Saxon by the name of John Henry Newman was on a boat from Palermo to Marseilles when the boat was becalmed, i.e. deprived of the wind necessary to keep it moving, for days on end. Newman had already suffered a burnout a few years back, dealt with the untimely death of his sister and just recovered from a bout of deadly typhoid fever.

Spared of all human strength, stuck in this stagnant state with no choice but to wait for the wind to set the sails in motion, he penned a poem containing these words, which have since been immortalized in a beloved hymn that is still sung in many traditional churches to this day.

Lead, Kindly Light, amid th' encircling gloom,

Lead Thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from

Lead Thou me on;
Keep my feet; I do not ask to see

the distant scene — one step enough
for me.

Can you relate? Has there been a time in your life when "the next step" is all you could hope for? Are you in that place right now, staring a mountain in

the face or simply stuck between the proverbial rock and a hard place?

Perhaps, you like Regine Hüttnér, have been in hot pursuit of a tall goal, only to find yourself scaling up fast, short. What is your Uhuru?

Is it the personal accomplishment of a business idea, an invention, a title or a work of art?

Is it recovery from a prolonged period of ill-health, self-doubt or spiritual drought?

Is it freedom from an addiction, debt or dependence upon a person, program or group?

Or, you could be in the same place as John Henry Newman, unable to make any progress, painfully aware that you are not in charge, coming to grips with the fact that there are some things in life that cannot be manufactured or manipulated, forced to do nothing but wait (im) patiently for divine intervention.

It is a dangerous place to be, where it is so easy to be paralyzed by fear, lose hope and give up on our dreams and goals. It is a place of despair and depression. We would much rather see the "distant scene" and every step that will take us there. However, should we simply dare to take the next step, will we not also experience the power of God and keep going till we complete our Freedom Climb? Regine would definitely say: Ja!

readers' views

Health concerns raised have no merit

Re: Mayor Jeff's article of Feb. 3

Firstly, the provincial and regional medical officers of health have stated the health concerns raised are without merit.

If we are to discount medical officers of health for this issue then why do we have them? Secondly, there is no evidence that turbines have an adverse effect on property values. With the setbacks in Ontario of 550 metres and 40dB sound restrictions there is clearly no encroachment on non-participating properties.

Madam Mayor your comments on the uniqueness of Wainfleet are interesting, as every rural community claims it has unique qualities, however, there is a common theme in that they are all farming communities having

entrepreneurial farmers looking to diversify their business and do something that is clean and helpful to the environment and future generations. A "wonderful diverse community" would be a place where open discussion is fostered.

IPC Energy addressed council on January 10 and did a regional overview who do we see the role of the wind energy industry and mentioned how other countries are asking for 2 kilometre setbacks. He failed to mention that these requests are from special interest groups like his, not government regulations. Following IPC's presentation, the Wainfleet rate payers association asked for a 2 kilometre setback to be established in Wainfleet. Mayor Jeff's and Coun. (Betty) Konec immediately asked staff to do a by-law establishing a 2 kilometre setback, despite being told by staff that there is no legislation in place to enforce the

by-law. Where is scientific evidence behind the 2 kilometre setback, or is this merely another attempt to eliminate any possibility of harnessing the wind in Wainfleet?

IPC has continued to go above and beyond the requirements of the Renewable Energy Approval in order to keep the community and council informed. We believe if people are acting through environmental concerns, whether through lack of understanding or the influence of self-interest groups, the chance of productive conversation is zero.

It is unfortunate that a small percentage of people have hardened their hearts against wind energy, as no amount of reason, logic or fact can influence their opinions. Nevertheless, IPC Energy will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available as it is the right thing to do.

Tom Lewis
IPC Energy

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■ COLUMN

The new plan doesn't maintain the status quo

Regional council began the development of its new 2012-15 Business Plan in the spring of 2011. The objectives and actions in order to achieve a number of priorities within the next four years. The plan was development over nine months and included several meetings, focus groups, stakeholder surveys and the identification of departmental work plans to ensure alignment with council's business plan.

The new plan received final council approval in December and although there are a few major items being carried forward from the 2007-11 business plan (such as the Transit Pilot and the Gateway Economic Zone and Centre), make no mistake, this is a new plan and not a status-quo or continuation of the previous plan.



David Barrick

The new plan includes a need for improvement, desire for positive change, measuring our performance, finding efficiencies and cost-reductions while improving customer service. While there is not enough space in this article to go into an exhaustive list of the business plan, I'd like to note some of the major themes and associated action items we're working on:

Themes and actions
 1) Responsive Region: Council has established a Responsive Region Improvement Team to

conduct program and service reviews aimed at finding cost-savings and efficiencies; the creation of an Investment and Economic Taxation Review Committee;

2) Healthy Community: to develop a sustainable and affordable housing and homelessness plan; ensuring the necessary infrastructure to support a high quality of life;

3) Open for Business: Council is finalizing an improved Economic Development system for Niagara;

4) Environmental Responsibility: to develop a waterfront enhancement strategy; completing the Region's Climate Change Action

Plan;

5) Integrated Transportation System: to work collaboratively with others to strengthen and coordinate the transportation system (eg. expansion of GO transit; Regional transit; East-West Aerial Road Corridor, etc.);

6) Governance Review: The Region has begun to review the current structure of Regional Government for areas of improvement; including Council Structure Reform, Internal Governance Reform and Service Delivery Reform;

7) Public Engagement and Communications: applying social media tools and other

methods to engage the public and stakeholders in meaningful two-way conversations.

It is important that regular and systematic reviews ensure the plan is on track and stays relevant. To this end, regular reports will be delivered to the standing committees and council, and further, an annual report card outlining our progress will be prepared for council and the public. This will provide an opportunity to reassess priorities and ensure the plan stays flexible enough to remain relevant to the taxpayers we serve. If you would like more information on council's 2012-15 Business Plan, please visit www.niagararion.ca.

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PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND WORKSHOP NEW COMPREHENSIVE ZONING BYLAW AND SITE PLAN CONTROL GUIDELINES

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Wainfleet will be holding a public meeting on **Saturday, February 25, 2012, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** in the Wainfleet Volunteer Firehall, 31907 Park Street, Wainfleet. The purpose of this open house and workshop is to present background information and seek public input concerning the creation of a New Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw and Site Plan Control Guidelines. Public input is a critical component of this project and will help shape these critical planning documents and overall development regulation in the Township. All Wainfleet residents, property owners and other stakeholders are invited to attend. The Township of Wainfleet has retained Sorenson Gravely Lowes Planning Associates Inc. Participants are required to R.S.V.P. to Irene McDonald at imcdonald@wainfleet.ca or (905) 899-3463, extension 224. Additional information is available at www.wainfleet.ca.

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■ AWARDS: City wins for marketing work

Growing success in Niagara's fields

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The city received two provincial honours from the Ontario Economic Development Council of Ontario at its conference in Toronto from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2.

It received two first place awards of excellence for Niagara Carbohydrate Valley and the Town for its economic development in the retention and expansion category. It also received first place for its Niagara's South Coast: Uncharted, Unexpected marketing initiative in the marketing campaign category.

Mayor Vance Badaway, in a press release, said he was pleased with the recognition.

"The City of Port Colborne is delighted to be recognized, once again, as a first class destination in the field of economic development," he said. "To be judged a leader in this competition that included cities and regions of all sizes, confirms the quality of our marketing and economic development initiatives."

The Niagara Carbohydrate Valley Investment Tour took place in May 2011.

The two-day event drew over 100 delegates from as far away as Africa and India.

The visitors and bio-food experts were taken into Ontario's Carbohydrate Valley to get a look at Niagara's food processing sector. Participants met manufacturers and exporters from Port Colborne and area. They also visited Casco Inc. and Jungbunzlauer Canada Inc.

Rob Kee, Casco Inc.'s managing director, said the business had benefited from the tour.

"This initiative provided a unique chance to showcase our activities in Port Colborne to potential customers and to trade and investment representatives from around the world," he said.

The city's marketing campaign was introduced in 2011 and creates a brand identity on the world-wide recognition of Niagara as a geographic reference point to local and international visitors.

It also shows people the advantages of living, visiting and doing business in Port Colborne, the undiscovered things to do like, sport fishing and cycling.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT/ FENCE-VIEWERS/PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet invites area residents who would be interested in being a member of the following committee.

Committee of Adjustment/Fence-Viewers/Property Standards - 1 position available

Interested residents may submit their application to Tanya Lamb, Township Clerk. Application forms for this committee may be downloaded from the Township's Web Site (www.wainfleet.ca) or by picking up copies in person from the Township Office during regular business hours (Monday—Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm).

Completed application forms may be dropped off at the Township Office, mailed, emailed (tlamb@wainfleet.ca) or faxed (Attention Tanya Lamb at 905-899-2340), by no later than Monday February 13th, 2012.

For further information, please contact:

Tanya Lamb

Clark

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■ PIRATES

'It's a decision council will have to make'

FROM PAGE 7

By ending ticket sales and sponsorship deals with businesses, Toffolo said the Pirates need the \$30,000 from concessions and board advertising to help recoup the costs.

Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badaway believes the Pirates should get in line as there is a number of interested parties looking to operate programs and services in the Port Health and Wellness Centre.

However, to be fair to all parties involved, a request for proposals process was instituted.

The mayor said there must be a balance between finding the right company to operate in the facility and not hurting the taxpayer to subsidize costs.

"Do we entertain a subsidy to the operator, provide relief to the taxpayer?" Badaway said. "It's a decision that council will have to make."

Toffolo began to work with other groups such as Port Colborne Minor Hockey to boost awareness and attendance for the sport. When Toffolo tried to reach out to the organization to collaborate on projects, he claimed he was met with deaf ears.

When contacted, Bill Steele, president of Port Colborne Minor Hockey, declined to comment.

Toffolo doesn't believe Port Colborne is



EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo

Port Colborne Pirates owner Tim Toffolo may have to find a new home for the Junior B hockey team should the City of Port Colborne not negotiate usage in the Vale Health and Wellness Centre.

a much of a hockey town anymore.

Badaway refuted that statement.

"Port Colborne is a hockey town," the mayor said. "If we didn't support hockey then we wouldn't be building a \$31-million facility."

Should Toffolo decide to pull the Pirates out of Port Colborne, the municipality is ineligible to host another junior team due to an encroachment rule by the OHA.

"The only exception to the rule is if Port Colborne wants to host a senior team," said OHA president Brent Ladd.

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DUNDEEWEALTH



■ **BOARDERPASS NIAGARA:** Wainfleter to share her passion on water with others

Creating a wakeboard scene

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

POR T COLBORNE — It used to take a board, a line and a boat to ride the waterways in Niagara.

But thanks to Amanda Newhouse and her colleagues at BoarderPass Niagara, that's about to change.

The company will soon introduce an innovative cable wakeboarding system at Sugarloaf Harbour Marina in Port Colborne — the only one of its kind in the region.

"It was always my dream to start a cable park in Niagara," said Newhouse, a Wainfleet resident who grew up wakeboarding on the canals and other local waterways.

During her time at Niagara College, where she excelled in the tourism management and business development program, Newhouse worked toward creating a business plan to introduce the cable system to her hometown — but the technology available

at the time and its high cost proved challenging to overcome.

Despite the barriers, the now 23-year-old never lost sight of her goal to make her favourite sport accessible to all Niagaraans.

Newhouse spent the past two summers coaching wakeboarding in the Muskoka area — where it seems to be taking off.

It was through her coaching job that she met business partners Chris Smith and Tim Nixon — owners of BoarderPass Sarnia, the only cable wakeboarding facility in southern Ontario.

see **BOARDERPASS** | page 11

CARMEN TURKINGTON
Supplied photo

Amanda Newhouse, of BoarderPass Niagara, catches some air on her wakeboard. The City of Port Colborne approved BoarderPass Niagara's proposal to operate at Sugarloaf Harbour Marina this summer.



■ SPORTS

CLUB FRONTENAC VOLLEYBALL

Here are results from Club Frontenac Volleyball. Reminder, there are no games on Friday, Feb. 10.

Friday, Jan. 27

Competitive A

McNay Construction 30 30 30
Davidson Funeral Homes 25 22 22



Supplied photo

Club Frontenac Volleyball players in action on a recent Friday night.

Smokin Buddha	30	21	30
Buckner's	23	30	27
Buckner's	30	21	30
Emerald Pines	21	30	21
Emerald Pines	30	23	30
The Healthy Cupboard	25	30	23
	17		
Island Heat	30	26	22

	30	24	17	Competitive A	Drifter's	21	27	19
The Belmont	30	24	30	Smokin Buddha	30	20	30	
South Coast Cookhouse	17	30	22	Canalside	27	30	23	The Mill Ridgeway 30 30 30
				Frank's Home Hardware	27	30	21	Boggio's 20 24 19
F.A.Y Farms	21	30	18	Canalside	30	22	30	Boggio's 30 30 28
Port Colborne Laundry	30	24	30	Davidson Funeral Homes	18	30	18	The City 25 24 30
				The Healthy Cupboard	21	30	26	F.A.Y Farms 30 17 17
Dr. Parr Optometry	30	30	30	RCJ Dream Renovations	21	24	27	The Reeb House 28 30 25
				McNay Construction	30	30	30	South Coast Cookhouse 30 30 23
Drifter's	30	26	18	Emerald Pines	16	20	24	Drifter's 19 26 30
The Reeb House	24	30	30	Island Heat	16	25	20	Port Colborne Laundry 21 18 27
				Buckner's	30	30	30	Dr. Parr Optometry 30 30 30
The City	30	25	27	The Mill Ridgeway	26	30	30	RCJ Dream Renovations 12 23 25
								The Belmont 30 30 30
	25	30	17	Competitive B	The Mill Ridgeway	30	30	23
Island Heat	30	26	22	Boggio's	28	30	25	
				South Coast Cookhouse				

Friday, Feb. 3

■ BOARDERPASS

System expected to be ready by Victoria Day

FROM PAGE 10

Not one to pass up an opportunity, Newhouse immediately approached the pair about bringing their innovative system to Niagara.

"They're pioneers of the sport," she said of her BoarderPass colleagues, expressing her excitement over the partnership.

Now that the idea was originally proposed for Welland, BoarderPass is thrilled to be setting up shop in Port Colborne.

The lakeside city, she said, has been "super progressive and supportive" since jumping on board in November.

Port Colborne council recently directed staff to draw up a formal contract solidifying the deal with BoarderPass. If all goes as planned,

There's not much of a wakeboard scene in Niagara. But we're going to create one."

Amanda Newhouse

the system should be up and running by the Victoria Day long weekend May 19 to 21.

In the meantime, the company is working on putting together its marketing strategy with hopes of encouraging people of all ages to get out on the water and give it a try.

"There's not much of a wakeboard scene in Niagara," Newhouse said. "But we're going to create one."

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nutritional guide.
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FRIDAY: 9AM TO 9PM

SATURDAY: 9AM TO 6PM

SUNDAY: 9AM TO 5PM



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66 Charlotte Street,
Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8
email: newsletter@portcolborne.ca

CITY HALL NEWS

A Newsletter written by Staff for the Residents of Port Colborne

FEBRUARY 2012

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- Engineering Update
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13th Annual Sportsfest 2012

Port Colborne

Sportsfest 2012 Event Listing

THURSDAY February 16, 2012

Mayors' Cup Invitational Hockey Tournament
Westside Arena - City Tavern (Headquarters)
City Tavern Headquarters -
202 Main Street West
For more information,
call Bryan: 905-834-1658 x. 247
Email: baythead@portcolborne.ca



SATURDAY, February 18, 2012

13th Annual Snow Golf Tournament
Whisky Run Golf Course - 631 Lorraine Road
12:00 noon
\$25.00 per person - bring your own trolley
For more information,
call Lou: 905-835-6864
Email: lou@whiskyrun.com
Proceeds to Special Olympics

Ontario Craft Brewers Beer Tasting
Canalide - 232 West Street
9:00 a.m.
\$10.00 per person
Up to groups of 6
For more information,
call Greg: 905-834-6090
Email: greg@canalide.ca
Proceeds to Port Cares

FRIDAY February 17, 2012

Music Trivia - Name that Tune
Music Trivia - 232 West Street
8:00 p.m. start
\$10.00 per person
Up to groups of 6
For more information,
call Greg: 905-834-6090
Email: greg@canalide.ca
Proceeds to Port Cares

Volleyball Tournament
Lakeshore Catholic High School - City Tavern (Headquarters)
Saturday - mens & ladies
Sunday - co-ed
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
\$170.00 per person
For more information,
call Peter: 905-714-6383
Email: pleaver@sympatico.ca
Please bring a non-perishable food item.
Proceeds to the Port Cares Food Bank

FREE Public Swimming
Proudly presented by Knights of Columbus
Council 3732
Centennial Pool - 124 Janet Street
Saturday, February 19, 2011
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
For more information, call: 905-835-2691

SUNDAY, February 19, 2012

The Frostbite Mountain Bike Race
Robinhood Lands (Headquarters)
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
For more information, visit our website:
www.thefrostbite.com

Trap Shoot
Conservation Clubhouse - 3757 Second Concession
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

For more information,
call Derek: 905-832-0372
Proceeds to the Port Colborne & District Conservation Authority

5th Annual Soup Cook Off
Canalide - 232 West Street
2 seatings: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
\$10.00 per person
For more information, call Greg: 905-834-6090
Email: greg@canalide.ca

Port Colborne Junior B Pirates
West Side Arena
3000 West Side Street
Vs. St. Catharines
Walter Gretzky will be on hand to sign
autographs and drop the puck at the
ceremonial face off.

MONDAY, February 20, 2012

FREE Skating
Proudly presented by FACS Niagara
Westside Arena
Monday February 21, 2011
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
For information call: 905-835-8732





PORT COLBORNE

Tags may be purchased at:

- ✓ City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street
- ✓ Independent Discount Pet Supply, 730 Main Street West

Dog owners who fail to purchase a dog license before the due date are liable for a set fine under Part 1 Provincial Offences Act.

City of Port Colborne 2012 Dog Licenses are now available for purchase and are due March 15.

The following discounted rates apply for licenses purchased on or before March 15:

Un-Neutered/Un-spayed Dogs \$25.00

Neutered/Spayed Dogs (proof required) \$15.00

After March 15, the regular rates of \$35.00 and \$25.00 apply.

✓ The Port Colborne Animal Shelter, 1080 Elm Street

✓ Pet Valu, Westside Place Plaza, Westside Road

Clearing the sidewalks of snow & ice

In Port Colborne, every owner or occupant of a building is responsible for clearing the sidewalks adjoining their property of all snow and ice within 24 hours of the cessation of a snow event. This allows the safe passage of all pedestrians. Please be considerate and offer assistance with snow removal to those neighbours who need a helping hand. If you are renting a property, please make necessary arrangements with your Landlord regarding snow removal.

Those who do not comply may face a fine of \$160.00 or have the removal completed at the owner's expense.

You may view the current Snow and Ice Removal By-law 5383/137/09 here: www.portcolborne.ca/page/bylaws

As always you may contact the By-law Enforcement Division at 905-835-2901 x. 210

Be a good neighbour and take the time to help!

PARKING

Make sure you put money in your meter.

Remember to park so as not to interfere with snow removal



AVOID

a parking ticket and/or a tow and comply with the parking rules and regulations.



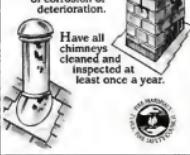
Environmental Advisory Committee Tree Planting Rebate Program

Through the initiative of the Environmental Advisory Committee, the City of Port Colborne is offering a Residential Tree Planting Rebate Program for residents of Port Colborne. Receive up to a \$50 rebate. For more information and to view the tree planting rebate application form, visit the City's Website at www.portcolborne.ca.

CHECK YOUR CHIMNEY

Remember to check your chimney regularly for signs of corrosion or deterioration.

Have all chimneys cleaned and inspected at least once a year.



WATCH YOUR ASHES

Allow the ashes from your woodstove or fireplace to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight fitting lid. Keep the container outside.



SNOWBUDDIES

Need your Community Service Hours?

Want to be part of an exciting program?

Or do you know of someone who has a disability and needs assistance with

SNOW REMOVAL?

You can either...

Become a Snow Buddy

Or apply to have your snow removed by a Snow Buddy

For more information, please call

Joanne Ferraccioli
905-835-2900 x. 130

CITY OF PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC NOTICE

NO PARKING INTERFERING WITH SNOW REMOVAL ON ALL HIGHWAYS

OWNERS of vehicles within the City of Port Colborne are hereby reminded of the provisions of the Highway Traffic Act and By-law No. 89-2000 which regulates parking and traffic on city roads.

No person shall park or stand a vehicle on a highway in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic or the clearing of snow from the highway.

Upon discovery of any vehicle parked or standing in contravention of the above mentioned, an officer may cause it to be moved or taken to and placed or stored in a suitable place and all costs and charges for removing, care and storage thereof, if any, are a lien upon the vehicle, which may be enforced in the manner provided by the Repair and Storage Liens Act.

Your co-operation in complying with these provisions would be appreciated and would avoid the use of the enforcement provisions of the By-law Act.

Vehicles - includes a motor vehicle, trailer, tractor engine, farm tractor, building materials and any vehicle drawn, propelled or driven by or kind of power, including popular power, but does not include a motorized snow vehicle or a street car.

Large Motor Vehicle - means a commercial motor vehicle, bus, school bus, boat, boat trailer, or mobile home.

The Operations Department Winter Control Standards are available on the City Website at: http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/Winter_Control_Standards

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Are you, or someone you know, celebrating a special birthday or anniversary? Mark this occasion with a special certificate from the Mayor's Office, as well as certificates from the Federal, Provincial and Regional Governments.

Contact us at 905-835-2901 x. 301 or email nancygiles@portcolborne.ca. We will forward your requests to the other levels of government.

Port Colborne sponsors Hwy H2O Marine Industry Conference



(L to R) Stephen Thompson, City of Port Colborne; Ken Shisko, Seaway Dock Services Limited; Gord McNeil and John Grech, McNeil Marine; Bruce Hodgson, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation; Wayne Smith, Algoma Central Marine.

The City of Port Colborne expanded its support for the marine transportation industry by once again sponsoring the annual Hwy H2O Conference. Held in Toronto in early November, the conference brought together businesses, industries, and public sectors from across the country involved in marine transportation on the Great Lakes. As a platinum conference sponsor, Port Colborne was featured during conference programming and additional Port Colborne materials were included in the package provided to every delegate.

Hwy H2O is a marketing brand for the St. Lawrence Seaway System which includes the Welland Canal, a water route that is vital to the existence of Port Colborne and its industries. It also provides Port Colborne with a true multi-modal transportation network which is a comparative advantage over other communities.

This year's conference focused on sustainability through the lens of five integrated perspectives: business growth, competitiveness, environmental, asset utilization, and renewal. Represented at the conference were the shipping and transportation industry, marine servicing businesses, port facilities, cargo handlers, and different levels of government.

"This conference brings together the key industry representatives in the shipping industry from across the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region," says Stephen Thompson, General Manager and Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Marketing for the City of Port Colborne. "The transportation and warehousing sector is integral to Port Colborne's economy and is recognized as a priority sector in the City's economic development strategy and action plan. It is important for the City to be here, learning about the latest industry trends."

According to reports from the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, the 2011 shipping season saw an increase in traffic on the St. Lawrence Seaway System over last year. The end-of-year total indicates an increase of 246 vessel transits on the system over 2010 bringing total transits to 3,792. Bulk cargos, including grain, salt, and petrochemicals, were the major cargos transported in 2011.

Recent studies have demonstrated the importance of the Seaway to the Canadian and US economy. According to a study released by Marine Delivers, the St. Lawrence Seaway System supports over 225,000 jobs in North America including 98,000 in Canada. It also contributes to over \$15.9 billion in economic activities in Ontario and Quebec.

Skateboard and BMX Park to be built at Lock 8 Park

April hopes to not only bring spring weather but also the start of construction at Lock 8 for the Skateboard and BMX Park. On Monday, January 16, 2012, City Council approved Lock 8 as the site for the Skateboard and BMX Park. The recommendation to choose Lock 8 was the result of a public meeting held on December 19, 2011. Land Inc. was awarded the design contract and has been working with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) and the Skatepark subcommittee on the park's design.

The MYAC and youth of Port Colborne have been empowered to select and design what they feel is a park that will benefit their needs. The 1,000 square metre park will be taking on a nautical theme to blend in with the surrounding scenery. Construction is scheduled to start in April to ensure an August opening.

The MYAC will be rapidly moving forward to obtain an approved budget from Council while working with Land Inc. on the design. The MYAC has also committed to raising 10% of the final determined amount and will be starting their fundraising efforts.

If you have any questions, would like to donate or participate in fundraising efforts, have nautical equipment that can be utilized in the design and/or would like to be updated on the progress of the project, please feel free to contact: Gina Murdoch at 905-834-1668 x. 236 or gina.murdoch@portcolborne.ca.

Upcoming Events at Roselawn Centre



Showboat Festival Theatre 2012 Summer Season

June 14 - 30

They're Playing Our Song
Book by Neil Simon
Music by Marvin Hamlisch
Lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager

A wisecracking composer finds a new, offbeat lyricist, but initially the match is not one made in heaven. The two undergo a series of trials and overcome a number of hurdles before finding true love by the final curtain.

Not Recommended For Children Under 14

July 5 - 21

Old Love
A Comedy by Norm Foster

He's recently divorced. She's newly widowed. At her husband's funeral, an old acquaintance emerges to pay his respects, leading to a re-awakening of forgotten emotions. Old Love is a story of romance, courtship and relationships between older adults, penned by Norm Foster, the author of Showboat hits like The Foursons, Looking, The Love List, Sitting Pretty and many more.

Not Recommended For Children Under 14

Tickets for all events are On Sale Now! Please call the Roselawn Centre Box Office at 905-834-0833 for tickets or further information. Box Office hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Grant Gerson Band 25th Anniversary Concert
Grand Ole Opry Salute
Saturday, March 3, 2012 - 8:00 p.m.
Tickets \$22.50
Roselawn Box Office 905-834-0833

July 26 - August 11

POPO! Goes The Sixties
A Musical Celebration of the
Pop Music of the 1960s
Directed by Tom Currie

An ex-hippie couple and their adult children go through the mega hits of the sixties in this brand new show from the creative team behind the Showboat Festival hits Back In '59 and Mamas Country Record Collection. A fun and far out celebration of the music of the sixties, one of pop music's greatest decades, featuring the music of Petula Clark, The Monkees, Neil Diamond, The Archies, The Lovin' Spoonful, Ray Charles, The Byrds, Dusty Springfield and many many more.

Recommended For Families with Children aged 8+

Aug 16-Sept 1

Last of the Red Hot Lovers
A Comedy by Neil Simon

Middle-aged and married, overworked and overweight, Barney Cashman wants to join the sexual revolution before it's too late and arranges three seductions: the first, Elaine Navazio proves to be a four-mouthing bundle of neuroses; Bobbi Michel is next, a 20-ish actress who's too kooky by half; finally comes September and Jeanette Fisher, a gloomy, depressed housewife who happens to be married to Barney's best friend.

Not Recommended For Children Under 14

CITY HALL NEWS

www.portcolborne.ca • Tel: 905-835-2900 • City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8 • email: newsletter@portcolborne.ca

PAGE 5

Vale Health and Wellness Centre Fact Sheet January 2012

Construction of the Port Colborne Health & Wellness Centre began in May 2011. This is a major construction project that includes the development of 145,000 ft² of building area and includes two (2) NHL size rinks, a 25 metre lap pool, a leisure pool, an indoor walking track, a gymnasium and bocce courts. This building will provide a significant improvement to the available services in the City.

Over the past five (5) months, residents in the neighbourhood witnessed construction activity that included steel erection of arenas 1 and 2, the multi-purpose field house and aquatic area; masonry walls forming change rooms; precast slabs for bleachers and the second floor level; roof work and wood deck installation and also the pouring of the lap and leisure pools and pool mechanical. The storm water retention pond was completed and seeded.

To maintain safety on the site it is imperative that the public stay

away from the construction areas which are signed and fenced off. This work is scheduled to continue throughout 2012.

Selected pedestrian pathways will remain accessible during construction.

Site photos are included below. The bullets listed below outline the scope of work that is expected to be carried out during the upcoming months.

- Backfilling of pool areas – January 2012
- Interior masonry walls – January 2012
- Roofing – January 2012
- Install second floor precast slabs – January 2012
- Temporary enclosures – January 2012
- Begin floor finishes – February 2012
- Slab on grade at Arenas – February 2012

- Construction of the second floor walls – February 2012
- Install doors and steps – February 2012
- Building cladding enclosure, walls and windows – March 2012
- Equipment room piping for pool – March 2012
- Mechanical and refrigeration equipment delivery – February/March 2012

The site will be busier as more trades occupy the site and work towards the end date. Local residents should anticipate an increase in truck traffic.

Visit the City of Port Colborne website at www.portcolborne.ca/page/Health_and_Wellness_Centre for information on the project as it progresses. If you have any questions you can call City Hall at 905-835-2901 x. 219.

VALE HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRE



Proposed running track – precast installation is ongoing



Storm water management pond



Proposed bocce space and multi-purpose field house



Aquatic centre steel erected and wood decking is installed



Arena change rooms and corridor - mechanical and electrical installations are ongoing.



Arena 1

Fundraising Campaign Continues for the Vale Health & Wellness Centre

The City of Port Colborne is reminding residents that the fundraising campaign for the Vale Health & Wellness Centre is still going strong for both the Dedication Walkway and Great Seat Sale.

The purchase of a brick or seat is the perfect opportunity to honour a special person, commemorate an anniversary, pay tribute to the memory of someone special, or advertise your business, while at the

same time helping to achieve the 3 million dollar fundraising goal. Bricks for the Dedication Walkway range from \$100 for a single brick, \$150 for a double brick, \$250 for business name or \$500 for displaying your company logo and name. Seats for the Arena are \$200 each and are limited to 1,000 seats.

Order forms can be picked up at all City of Port Colborne properties including City Hall, Roselawn, Museum, Library, West Side Arena, Centennial Pool, and various local businesses or online at www.portcolborne.ca. Online payments are also now available through the City's website.

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CITY HALL NEWS



PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Art in the Library...

Featuring Work by Local Artists and Artisans:

On display in the Atrium until January 15, 2012.

*Paintings by Es...

Download free e-Book Audiobooks, Music and Videos to your home computer or portable device!

All you need is a valid Port Colborne Library card and PIN. Call the Library at 905-834-6512 for more information or to register in one of our upcoming free seminars on how to download free e-books. Download aids are also available online at www.portcolborne.ca.

PROGRAMMING FOR ADULTS

FREE CA TAX CLINIC

Saturday, March 10, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Free tax return preparation if your total household income is less than \$20,000 without dependents, or less than \$30,000 with dependents. Call the Library at 905-834-6512 for more information and to register now.

MONEY PARTY

Monday, March 12, 2012, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Let's talk about money with financial mentor Suzanne Hyne. Gain skills, knowledge and confidence to transform your financial future. To register for this seminar, contact Suzanne at 289-213-6388 or by email at suzannehyne@ymail.com.

INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

With Instructor Vicki Remshaw, Cost is \$2.00 per class. For more information or to register, contact Barb at 905-834-1453 or by email superv@rcpco.ca.

LIBRARY DOWNLOADS SEMINAR

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join for a demonstration of how to select, check out, and download ebooks & audiobooks from the Library site to your home computer, and transfer them to a portable device. Free. Space is limited. Pre-register at the Library.

OVER 50'S CLUB

SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Lessons geared toward your interest. Topics available include: email, Facebook, Twitter, blogging, creating simple websites, and more! Cost is \$10.00 per person per one-hour lesson. Pre-registration required. Call Vicki at 905-834-1453 or by email vicki@rcpco.ca.

KNITTING CLASSES WITH INSTRUCTOR VICKI FRETZ

Tuesday evenings 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday afternoons 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

With Instructor Vicki Fretz. For more information on the knitting Club or to register, contact Vicki. To join the Knitters Club, call Vicki at 905-835-3373.

FILMS FOR SENIORS

Presented the first Wednesday of the month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. Free admission! Free refreshments!

WII BOWLING FOR SENIORS

Presented the second Wednesday of the month, September to June, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fun, low-impact exercise, and a bit of friendly competition. Free admission. Free refreshments.

Port Colborne Public Library
310 King Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 4H1
www.portcolbornelibrary.org
Phone: 905-834-6512
Fax: 905-835-5775
email: library@portcolborne.ca

PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN

MARCH 10, 2012, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Registration for children's programming at the library will begin on March 1, 2012. Activities will include Crafts with Stacey Extraordinary Experiments, Painting at the Library, Kids' Yoga with Nada, Story Time and Library B-H-I-G-O. For more information, visit us online at www.portcolborne.ca.

FAMILY YOGA WITH NADIA

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

For children up to age 13 with a parent or caregiver. Cost is \$10.00. Call 905-325-9841 to register.

KIDS' YOGA WITH NADIA

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

For ages 4 to 12. Cost is \$5.00 for the 8-week session or \$0.50 per drop-in. Bring a yoga mat, towel or blanket. Call 905-325-9841 to register.

TOT TIME WITH STACEY (FOR AGES 2 TO 5)

Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Stories, crafts & games for children ages 2 to 4 with their parents/caregivers. Cost is \$5.00 per child per week. Pre-register at the Library.

CRAFTS WITH STACEY (FOR AGES 8 TO 12)

Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Calling all kids! Come to the Library for fun, seasonally-themed crafts! Cost is \$3.00 per child. Pre-register at the Library.

SMALL HANDS STUDIO

Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Join Kelly Davis. Encourage your "small hands" as we paint, draw and color. Each session will be a search for a new season's fun! For more information, or to register, contact Kelly at 905-834-8483, or by email smallhandsstudio@rogers.com.

Hours of Service

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Calling all Volunteers!

Festival Season will be here before we know it and the City is looking for volunteers for both Flavours and Canal Days. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the festivals and the City can't do it without you!

Volunteer Applications can be found online at www.portcolborne.ca, from the Community Services Office located at the Roselawn Centre, 296 Fielden Avenue, or from City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street.

Volunteering at these events is a great way to get involved

in the community, or, if you're a student, it's the perfect way to earn your required 40 hours of community service.

In September of 2011, a Volunteer Committee of Council was created as a way of developing and recommending volunteer policies to Council in addition to recruiting, training, retaining and recognizing volunteers. This committee is comprised of Councillor Angie Desmarais, Councillor Barbara Butters, Gary Makins, Manager of Community Services and Michelle Idzenga, Administrative Assistant to the Manager of Community Services.

INPORT NEWS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Port Colborne Transit Bus Link to Welland Monday to Saturday*

Fare: City funded trips - \$3.50 cash, UPASS, monthly passes accepted
 Regional funded trips - \$3.50 to Welland (cash only), \$5.00 to Welland with a transfer to Inter-Municipal Bus (cash only)

PC City Hall (depart)	Ontario & Canal Bank	Niagara College	Seaway Mall	Downtown Terminal	King St. Welland	PC City Hall (arrive)
7:25 am	7:41 am	7:50 am	7:57 am	8:04 am	8:10 am	8:30 am
8:35 am	8:51 am	9:00 am	9:07 am	9:14 am	9:20 am	9:40 am
12:10 pm	12:26 pm	12:36 pm	12:42 pm	12:49 pm	12:55 pm	1:15 pm
1:20 pm	1:36 pm	1:45 pm	1:52 pm	1:59 pm	2:05 pm	2:25 pm
4:45 pm	5:01 pm	5:10 pm	5:17 pm	5:24 pm	5:30 pm	5:50 pm
5:55 pm	6:11 pm	6:20 pm	6:27 pm	6:34 pm	6:40 pm	7:00 pm

For more information on Inter-Municipal Transit visit www.niagararegion.ca/transit

Buses are fully accessible for mobility devices and seniors

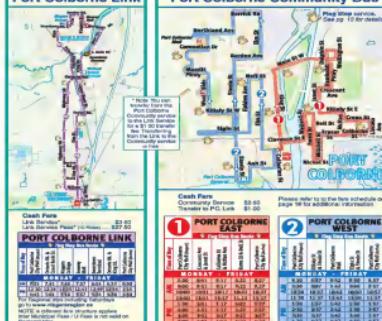
* Saturday trips funded by Region. Please note that while the bus runs out-of-County (LINK) on Saturdays, it does not run within the City (Community bus). Riders are responsible for their own transportation to the LINK point at City Hall.

Green font times are trips funded by the Region.

Red font times are existing City trips, funded by the City

After the 6 months pilot period, the Region will review the fare for Regional trips.

Port Colborne Link



All volunteer inquiries can be directed to Michelle Idzenga at the Community Services Office located at the Roselawn Centre, 905-834-1668 x. 232 or michelle.idzenga@portcolborne.ca.

As part of this new committee, a survey will be distributed to all current and former volunteers asking for feedback about your volunteering experience with the City. Keep an eye out for this survey in February, or you can fill one out online by visiting www.portcolborne.ca.

CITY HALL NEWS

www.portcolborne.ca • Tel: 905-835-2900 • City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8 • email: newsletter@portcolborne.ca

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Heritage Week

The Port Colborne Museum welcomes you to join us in a reflection of the War of 1812. The Ontario Heritage Trust - the province's lead heritage agency - has announced their theme for this year's Heritage Week. "Defending a Nation" commemorates 2012 as the bicentennial anniversary of this significant war. In response to the Trust's lead for Ontario communities to recognize this defining event in our history, we will be highlighting the bicentennial by featuring an interactive research station. Visit the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives at 286 King St. (between the Museum and the Library) from Tuesday, February 21 to Friday, February 24.

In the Marie Semley Research Room at the Archives you are invited to take a virtual tour of the artifacts and archives in the Museum's collection that relate to the War of 1812 in our local community. This online digitization project was the result of Brock University partnering with six Niagara heritage institutions. Our research station will be available at the Archives until February 24 or you can visit the site from the comfort of your own home at www.1812history.com.

While you're at the Archives, learn about upcoming exhibits and events planned to commemorate this war and the two hundred years of peace that have followed between Canada and the United States. Through several Museum publications and gifts available for sale, this issue includes: Anger's "Scrapes of Commerce" The War of 1812 in the Great Lakes; Semley's "The War of 1812 in Port Colborne and the Fenian Invasion of Canada, June 1866, by William Smy and Along the Lakeshore - Building and Shaping of Our Community in Port Colborne and Walniptield, by Joan Scapillato.

As our motto says, "we're More than a Museum! The Archives re-opens on Tuesday, February 21. Winter hours will be Monday to Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. We encourage you to explore the resources at the Archives, whether you're curious about family history, a heritage home, research for school projects or local trivia. Knowledge of our heritage helps to build a stronger sense of community and can improve our quality of life. Heritage Week helps to make us aware of our surroundings and of how former residents of the Port Colborne area created and influenced the city and country we live in today.



INFORMATION FOR SUGARLOAF HARBOUR CUSTOMERS

Sugarloaf Marina would like to inform all customers of the change which have taken place for the 2012 year.

Marine Service Provider

At start, as you are well aware, the lease with Marlon Marine Services ended on December 31, 2011. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in the fall of 2011 for marine services and as a result Port Colborne Marina has been selected as the provider of a Marine Supply and Service Shop at Sugarloaf Marina for 2012. Marlon Marine Services did request a one month extension to remove their owned property and this was provided. Port Colborne Marina and the City of Port Colborne would like to inform you, our customers, that the marine service operations for 2012 will continue to be available as previously provided.

Port Colborne Marina will assume the role as the new marine service provider as of February 1, 2012. The same level of service will be provided for the following:

- Boat repairs
- Boat engine repairs & maintenance
- Sale of boats
- Sale and installation of boat engine
- Shrink wrapping
- Sale placement of boat trailers or other items for storage at Sugarloaf designated locations
- Sales of miscellaneous boat supplies
- Sale of fishing licences are optional
- Lift outs and lift ins

The hours of operation to be provided by Port Colborne Marine are as follows:

February 1 - April 30

Out of Season, will staff as required

May 1 - Labour Day

- Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (later if required)
- Sunday, On Call

Labour Day - December 31

Out of Season, will staff as required

Port Colborne Marine will offer a flexible schedule for haul outs and lift-ins, which shall be scheduled (weather permitting) Monday to Friday and Saturday if requested. Port Colborne Marine shall have a licensed mechanic available during the hours of operation of the business as needed to meet customer demand.

Port Colborne Marine would further like to give notice that there will be no change in pricing for marine services in 2012 as pricing will remain the same as those rates in 2011. In addition, boaters that prefer to do their own work on their own boat in the storage yard will continue to be permitted to do so, under the approval of Port Colborne Marine.

Marina Operations and Fees

The City will be issuing a RFP during the early summer of 2012 for possible long term operations of the total Sugarloaf Harbour operations by a private sector (P3) operator. The results of the responses to the RFP call will be evaluated by Council and compared to costs and revenues of continued Municipal operations. It is expected that this decision will be made prior to the end of the 2012 boating season.

Also, as you are aware, Sugarloaf Marina purchased a weed cutter machine in 2011 and will work diligently to keep the weed growth

to a minimum in our harbour. Again this will depend on timing permitted by the Ministry to start cutting and the weather conditions.

In addition, a new flat rate structure for seasonal boaters renting slips has been established which should provide a slight reduction in your slip fees for 2012. The proposed seasonal rates for the 2012 boating season will be lower than 2011 by an average of 7%. Port Colborne Marina would like to remind you that with a signed contract, plus provides their insurance documentation, before their boat goes in the water to take advantage of this price. Size restrictions must be imposed on docks (for example, 16 foot boats should not be placed up to 27 foot docks).

In Summary:

- No price increase for seasonal docks
- Insurance documentation and payment in full must be made before the boat goes in the water
- If full payment and insurance documentation is not made before the boat is in water a 15% premium will apply
- Switch over to a flat rate system that will in effect lower the price of docks
- Impose size restriction on docks
- Objective to increase occupancy and simplify pricing structure
- Be the most competitive priced marine of our size
- Insurance documentation and payment efficiency is one of the objectives

Marina Restaurant

The Marina will have a new and exciting restaurant opening this season at the Marina. The restaurant company called Hospitality on Hand Catering & Consulting is from Niagara Falls and has yet to name the new restaurant. The company was founded by J. Mark Hand who has a long and proven successful career in the restaurant and hospitality industry serving in various roles with the "Inn on the Twenty", "K's Fourth Avenue" and 10 years as Executive Chef at Niagara College opening the Niagara Culinary Institute.

Hospitality on Hand Catering & Consulting reports that it "has accepted the position of properly running the Deck at Creekside Waterfront at Sugarloaf Marina Boat Club and the Clubhouse at Grand Niagara Golf & Country Club and have been extremely successful in catering numerous events. Their focus is "great service with properly trained front and back of house staff, fresh and local foods and clean, organized kitchen..."

Summer Hours of operation are planned to be generally all day Sunday to Saturday, with later hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (close 2 hours per day mid afternoon depending on business) and during the winter open primarily for breakfast and lunch and dinner Thursday to Sunday.

Staff are looking forward to a making your stay at Sugarloaf Marina a memorable season for 2012!

It is the goal of Sugarloaf Marina and our partners Port Colborne Marine and Hospitality on Hand Catering & Consulting to work together in making our harbour a great place for boating that is friendly, hospitable and affordable.

We would like to thank all boat owners that continue to support our facility and we look forward to the 2012 season with you. Your business is greatly appreciated!

Mr. Peter Senese

Director of Community and Corporate Services

Ruth's Route

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum was able to take advantage of the mild winter to get a pathway poured, from the Williams House to Arabella's Tea Room, before 2012 was rung in. The visionary and donor behind this fully accessible route, is long-time volunteer Ruth Henry.

Ruth began as a volunteer receptionist in 1996 and continued to welcome guests every Wednesday until her failing eyesight made it too difficult to do the job. However, that was not the last of her volunteer hours. Having a great knowledge of the Museum, and

the community, made Ruth the ideal volunteer for the welcome table and keeper of the Official Canal Days Guest Book. This year the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has accepted the Museum's nomination for Ruth to receive her 15 year pin at the Ontario Volunteer Service Award for her years of continuous service.

We are grateful that Ruth's vision for an accessible pathway will benefit not only this dedicated volunteer, but all visitors to the Museum grounds.



This January, Ruth Henry stopped in to give Director/Curator Stephanie Powell Biswick her seal of approval on the paved pathway which runs from the East entrance to the West end of the Museum grounds.

Port Colborne's Drinking Water

Drinking Water Quality Management System

In order to be licensed to own and operate a drinking water system under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, the City of Port Colborne is required to have a Quality Management System that conforms to the Provincial Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (Standard).

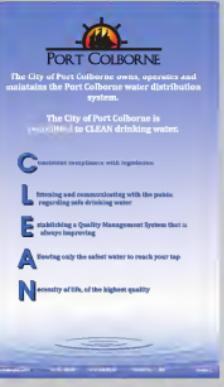
The City's Distribution System Operational Plan:

- provides a framework for the policies, procedures, and objectives that make up the Quality Management System;
- directs and controls the City's drinking water activities with respect to quality;
- and ensures conformance to the Standard.

The City's Operational Plan is available on the internet, by clicking on the "View the Distribution System Operational Plan" link at http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/drinking_water_licensing. Hardcopies of the Operational Plan can also be viewed at City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, 2nd Floor, Engineering and Operations Department, or at the Port Colborne Public Library, 310 King Street during normal business hours.

The City is well into its third year of following the framework established in the Operational Plan and implementing the Quality Management System for the Port Colborne Distribution System. Our Internal Audit Team, which audits drinking water activities against the Operational Plan and the Standard, continues to identify continual improvement opportunities. The Operating Authority staff (Engineering and Operations staff)

are busy considering and implementing these continual improvement opportunities in an effort to improve our processes to not only meet, but where possible, exceed the minimum requirements of the Standard and the applicable drinking water regulations. The City's continued commitment to CLEAN drinking water is outlined in the Quality Policy.



In September 2010, the City submitted its application to the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) for Full Scope Accreditation, and we are currently waiting to be assigned a date for the on-site audit of our Quality Management System.

Current Projects

Extraneous Flow Reduction Program
In conjunction with the Regional Municipality of Niagara, the City of Port Colborne is committed to reducing unnecessary sewage treatment costs, the potential for basement flooding, and combined sewer overflows, by reducing infiltration of storm water to the sanitary sewage collection and treatment system through its Extraneous Flow Reduction Program. A final report for the Arena Sewershed outlining the success of the program was presented to Council on November 28, 2011 noting that a

successful reduction in extraneous flows was achieved. Cost savings in the Arena Area will amount to approximately \$15,000 annually.

The Extraneous Flow Reduction Program has been expanded to the Omer Sewage Pump Station Area. The program involves inspection of private sanitary sewer services to assess their condition and the presence of any improper connections, followed by recommendations and City-funded improvements to remove sources of rainwater from the sanitary sewer system. Inspections have

been completed and the City is preparing a plan to remediate the sources of infiltration that were found throughout the study area. An additional program was started in the summer of 2011 which has focused on determining the condition and capacity of the storm sewer system in the Omer area. Sump pump disconnections from the sanitary sewer have started where grading and drainage allows. Additional sump pump disconnections will take place once the capacity and condition of the storm sewers is determined. We would like to thank all residents in the Omer Pump Station Area who have participated in this project. For more information, please visit the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca

Water Distribution Infrastructure Needs Study

Staff has prepared Terms of Reference for the City's Water Distribution Infrastructure Needs Study (WDINS). The Engineering Division last revised the Infrastructure Needs Study for the Water Distribution System in 1996. Since then the City has completed the majority of the recommended capital upgrades and an updated WDINS needs to be completed in order to determine the capital upgrades required for the next 5-10 years.

Subsequently, a WDINS was budgeted for in the Financial Plan and was budgeted to be completed every 5-6 years in the future. Undertaking a WDINS every 5-6 years will ensure that the most up-to-date information is available for the preparation of the Financial Plan (which has to be re-submitted with the license renewal every 5 years) and will result in more meaningful projections and expenditure forecasting.

A WDINS will take into account the age and materials in the distribution system and also examine items such as historical watermain breaks, maintenance issues, water quality issues etc. and prioritize watermain replacements based on these and other factors. A WDINS will more clearly define the estimated replacement costs, hence the importance of conducting a WDINS on a regular basis.

Storm Sewer Infrastructure Needs Study

Staff has prepared the Terms of Reference for the City's Storm Sewer Infrastructure Needs Study (SSINS). The City

has prepared designs for three new storm sewer systems for areas in need of improved drainage management.

A SSINS will update the Master Storm Drainage plan for the entire urban area and will also develop a solution for existing flooding issues. It will also review the use of storm retention ponds and other storm water management measures in undeveloped areas and review the use of existing storm retention ponds in existing developed areas to ensure the ponds are working as per the initial designs.

A SSINS will also take into account the age and materials in the storm sewer system and examine items such as historical flooding, maintenance issues, discharge water quality, and prioritize storm sewer replacements and construction of new storm sewer systems based on these and other factors. A SSINS will more clearly define estimated replacement costs, hence the need to conduct a SSINS on a regular basis. Completing a SSINS for the storm sewer system will aid the City proactively determining the level of funding necessary to become "sustainable" and meet the requirements of the Water Opportunities Act, once it is passed by the Province.

Steele Street and Elgin Street Safety Study

Engineering staff have prepared Terms of Reference for a traffic and pedestrian safety study at the intersection of Steele Street and Elgin Street. There have been numerous requests for intersection improvements in the past few years. The study will review the warrants required for traffic signals along with any other safety improvements that can be made to allow vehicular and pedestrian traffic to flow in unison.

East Side Bulk Water Filling Station

A report went to Council on July 11, 2011 recommending two suitable sites. The site chosen by Council allows the Bulk Water Station to remain on Elizabeth Street about 600 metres south of the existing location. Request for tender were advertised and a report to Council recommending the award of the contract was presented to Council on November 28, 2011. Construction is currently underway with the commissioning of the new bulk water station expected to take place in the spring of 2012.

PUBLIC NOTICE!

Don't Trade Your Car!!

Mike Knapp Ford is wanting to purchase 30 to 40 locally owned used vehicles and is willing to pay extra for local vehicles with known vehicle history...

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EVEN IF FORD DOESN'T HAVE WHAT YOUR LOOKING FOR. IF YOU BUY FROM US, WE CAN PAY OFF YOUR CAR REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU OWE. ON APPROVED CREDIT

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\$26,779

DEALER CASH

\$5,000

CUSTOM CAR CASH

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\$83 WEEK, 24 MTHS
\$0 DOWN AT 5.99% OAC

\$21,279

+HST

2012 F150 SUPERCREW 4X4 XTR

TRAILER TOW PACKAGE, POWER SEAT, WINDOWS & LOCKS, CRUISE, TILT, CHROME STEP BARS, FOG LIGHTS, SYNC (BLUETOOTH)



\$42,080

DEALER CASH

\$7,500

+HST

INCLUDES \$1,000 NO CHARGE ACCESSORIES

\$133

WEEK, 24 MTHS
\$0 DOWN AT 5.99% OAC

2012 FOCUS SE

6-SPD AUTO, POWER WINDOWS AND LOCKS



\$21,265

CUSTOM CAR CASH

\$500

+HST

\$81 WEEK, 24 MTHS
\$0 DOWN AT 5.99% OAC

2012 F150 SUPERCAB XLT

POWER WINDOWS & LOCKS, CRUISE, TILT, AM/FM CD, SIRIUS, TRAILER TOW PACKAGE



\$34,209

DEALER CASH

\$7,500

+HST

\$26,709

+HST

INCLUDES \$1,000 NO CHARGE ACCESSORIES

Mike Knapp



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■ WATER SPORTS: 'It's easy to use, easy to learn'

Cable wakeboarding to anchor in Port Colborne

MARYANN FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORL COLBORNE — It seems Colborne's proposed cable wake-like smooth sailing for Port

boardng facility.

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Councillors reviewed and approved terms and conditions under which the innovative water sport system will be brought to the lakeside city.

Following a presentation from BoarderPass Niagara, the company hoping to install the cable system, city staff were directed to write up a formal contract to solidify the deal.

Both installation and operation will be funded 100% by BoarderPass Niagara with no cost to the city.

Port Colborne will, however, receive a portion of the revenue for use of its marina — where the system will be located.

The wakeboarding system will be installed at Sugarloaf Harbour south of the restaurant and in a westerly direction toward the

boat ramp, said Gary Makins, Port Colborne's manager of community services.

This will not interfere with the boat ramp or the slips at the marina.

The location is inside the breakwall, which makes it ideal for wakeboarding without interruption from high waves, Makins said. It's also in an ideal location for onlookers spending time at either the marina restaurant or H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park, he added.

Makins is confident the system will help to draw people to the marina and is already looking into planning a demonstration for Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, taking place this year from Aug. 3 to Aug. 6.

see WATER SPORTS | page 15

Port Colborne Operatic Society
BRINGING BROADWAY HOME 1945 - 2011

Annie
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Rosedawn Centre
296 Fielden Ave.
Port Colborne
905-834-0833

Toll Free 1-888-870-8181
Box Office hours:
9:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday to Friday

Performance Dates
Sat. Feb. 18 7:30
Sun. Feb. 19 2:00
Sat. Feb. 25 7:30
Sun. Feb. 26 2:00
Fri. Mar. 2 7:30
Sat. Mar. 3 7:30
Sun. Mar. 4 2:00

All Performances At
Lakeshore Catholic High School Auditorium
Janet Street Port Colborne
portcolborneoperaticsociety.com

■ WATER SPORTS

Proposed facility to help grow activity with camps

FROM PAGE 14

The hope is to have the system up and running by the Victoria Day long weekend May 19 to 21.

Both wakeboarding and wakeskating will be offered

— the latter of which has participants riding the boards without having their feet tied in.

Makins was able to try the system during a trip to the Toronto International Boat

Show earlier this month.

"It's easy to use, easy to learn," he said while noting the benefit of not having to wait for a boat to turn around and retrieve a fallen rider.

The plan is to eventually install elements in the water that can be mastered as participants are learning of the sport, Makins said.

The facility will offer monthly and seasonal

passes, as well as hourly rates and rates based on a number of sets. In a second year of operation, the company plans to begin running an eight-week summer camp.

A similar attraction had been suggested for Welland's recreational canal.

*mfirth@wellandtribune.ca
Twitter: @mfirthTribune*

ALONG THE LAKESHORE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Port Colborne Horticultural Society's meeting at 7:30 p.m. will feature Kristi Montovani. Her topic will be Green Roofs and Walls. At Friends Over 55 Seniors Centre, 554 Fielden Ave.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17

Niagara Peninsula Geological Society, Annual General meeting and potluck supper at 7:30 p.m. at MountainView Church, 150 Glendale Ave. Supper, silent auction, member displays. Visitors welcome — single dish or dessert solicited. Speaker Ashley Pollock: pegmatites of the Granville Province.

EVENTS AT ONTARIO EARLY YEARS CENTRE, 92 CHARLOTTE ST.

Interactive play sessions Monday to Wednesday from 9:12-2 and 1-4. Thursday from 9:12 and 1-7 and Friday from 9:12. These programs are for children birth to six years of age and their parent or caregiver. Please visit the Ontario Early Years Centre or call 905-834-9071 ext. 238 or email oeyc-pc@portcares.on.ca for more information.

Baby and Me, Valentine's — Infant Interactive Play Program on Monday, February 13, pre-registration is required. This program is for infants and their parent/caregiver. This afternoon session is offered from 1:30-3:30. Please visit the Ontario Early Years Centre or call 905-834-9071 ext. 238 or email oeyc-pc@portcares.on.ca to register.

Jump and Jiggle/Paint & Wiggle — Interactive Toddler Program on Wednesday, February 15, 22 and 29 from 9:30-10:45. pre-registration is required. These morning sessions are for toddlers aged 18 months to 30 months and their parent/caregiver. Please visit the Ontario Early Years Centre or call 905-834-9071 ext. 238 or email oeyc-pc@portcares.on.ca to register.

Jump and Jiggle/Paint & Wiggle — Interactive Preschool Program on Thursday, February 16 and 23 from 9:30-11:30. pre-registration is required. These morning sessions are for preschoolers aged 2½ to 6 years old and their parent/caregiver. Please visit the Ontario Early Years Centre or call 905-834-9071 ext. 238 or email oeyc-pc@portcares.on.ca to register.

Infant Massage Program on Monday, February 27, March 5, 12, and 19, pre-registration is required. This program is for infants, not yet moving independently, and their parent/caregiver. These afternoon sessions are offered from 1:30-3:30. Please visit the Ontario Early Years Centre or call 905-834-9071 ext. 238 or email oeyc-pc@portcares.on.ca to register.

Developmental Preschool Screening is a preliminary screening tool that provides parents with information about their child's developmental milestones and to ensure that their developmental needs are being met. Please visit the Ontario Early Years Centre or call 905-834-9071 ext. 238 or email oeyc-pc@portcares.on.ca for more information.

continued on page 16



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BURSARY AWARD

PORT COLBORNE — For the post secondary scholarly year 2011/2012, Chapter V, Niagara of the Districts Superintendents Association of Ontario (DSAO) will be awarding a bursary with a value of \$600, for post secondary education to a successful candidate within the district of Chapter V of the DSAO, which consists of the area within the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Halton County, Norfolk County, Brant County and the City of Hamilton.

Applicants must be continuing to further their education in an agricultural or water management related field and must graduate in 2012 with a minimum 8 average (70% or greater) from an accredited secondary school within the DSAO Chapter V district. The bursary will be payable to the recipient early in the year 2013, upon filing proof of enrollment in the second semester of post secondary studies. The application may only be used at post secondary institutions (colleges and universities) within the province of Ontario. There is no restriction on the program of studies; however, the studies must be in a field which is, in some manner, related to agriculture and/or water management.

Contact the guidance department of the secondary school which you are currently attending, and ask for a copy of the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario Chapter V, Niagara Ralph Bradley Memorial Bursary Guidelines and application for the Ralph Bradley Memorial Bursary form.

JIU-JITSU SEMINAR

PORT COLBORNE — Dayboll



Jiu-Jitsu will present a seminar with Pale Popovich on Sunday, Feb. 19 at its Port Colborne location, 408 Catherine St.

Popovich is a world submission wrestling champion, three time world jiu-jitsu champion and a three time Pan American jiu-jitsu champion. All are invited, though only 40 spots are available. The cost is \$75 for the seminar. Call 774-205-8326 or 905-835-9300 for more information.

FEIRAMES CHARGES LAID

WAINFLEET — A 44-year-old man has been charged with firearms offences after police were tipped off that a resident was in possession of several firearms without a permit and were storing guns in an unsafe manner.

Niagara Regional Police say a search warrant was executed Friday, the same day an arrest was made.

Wayne Shoemaker is charged with three counts of unsafe storage of firearm.

Police are reminding gun owners that firearms are to be stored in accordance with the Canadian Firearms Act. More information on proper firearm handling, transportation and storage can be found at www.rmpc.gc.ca/cfp-pcp/pol-leg/act-loi-erg.htm.

REGION RETAINS RATING

THOROLD — Niagara Region has maintained its AA credit rating as a

result of "a healthy and moderate debt burden," according to a report by bond-rating agency Standard and Poor's.

Niagara's regional government had \$295 million of net debt at the end of 2010 and its debt ratio remains conservative compared to its global peers, but slightly higher than similarly rated domestic peers.

"The affirmation of the AA credit rating is welcome news for the Niagara Region, especially given today's challenging economic climate," said regional Chair Gary Burroughs. "This sends a positive message to investors and Niagara residents that the efforts and accomplishments of regional council and our management team demonstrate that Niagara continues a strong record of fiscal management ensuring a strong financial foundation."

AN 1812 FAMILY DAY

LINCOLN — Ball's Falls Conservation Area will host a Winter Day in 1812 on Monday, Feb. 20 in celebration of Family Day.

Guests will take a step back in time and experience the sights and sounds of the military occupation of Ball's Falls, where mills were crucial to victory during the war. Activities will run from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. and include military re-enactments and target shooting demonstrations. For more information, visit www.ballsfalls.ca.



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■ **BUSES:** System carried just 28% of expected riders and earned 50% of projected revenue in first few months

Region transit off to sluggish start

QMI Agency

THOROLD — Niagara Region Transit is off to a sluggish start, carrying just one-quarter of the projected riders while earning half the money predicted in its first months on the road.

Regional council's public

works committee heard the 17,667 riders the region bus system drew from September to December was only 28% of the 63,000 riders it was projected to carry, equal to 240 riders a day.

It missed its \$143,000 cash target, too, pulling in an estimated \$70,929 for the region

— about half the revenue aimed for.

The ridership and revenue report also said the heels of a separate recommendation to offset a March 4 fare hike with monthly bus passes and 10-ride tickets for the fledgling transit pilot project that connects St. Catharines,

Welland and Niagara Falls.

"We know that municipal transit systems are money-losing, but this is not extraordinary," said St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski of the system's ridership.

The numbers were no surprise, said transportation director Joe Cousins. He said the

consultant behind the system and bus-business counterparts at Durham Region Transit had predicted the region would miss the mark in the early going. And he said there was positive news, as ridership rose as each month went on.

"Month over month there was growth in ridership,

which is good news," he said. "Overall, we're a little disappointed in the numbers."

He nevertheless had a word. "It does take a considerable amount of time for a system to mature and for ridership to be there."

see TRANSIT | page 19

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■ TRANSIT

Region's monthly bus pass would come at high cost

FROM PAGE 18

The system's overall take was \$86,335, but the region only paid \$29,000 in terms of cost-sharing with the three municipal bus systems. Those three, operating in Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, receive the other \$17,406.

Figures for the system's

feeder routes to Port Colborne and Fort Erie weren't available.

It cost about \$2.7 million annually to run the system. The region was banking on generating just more than \$650,000 in revenue from fares.

The general fare for a single

regional bus ride will leap to \$6 from \$5 in March. But the new fare plan, which the committee recommended to the region, will see seniors and high schoolers still paying the \$5 rate.

A 10-fare ticket would cost \$45 and a monthly pass \$160.

For seniors and students, it

would be \$40 and \$130. Kids under age five would ride for free.

That still puts the region's fare at roughly double the average for a system in a municipality of its size.

And the region's monthly pass would cost more than a monthly pass on the Toronto

Transit Commission, which runs \$128 for an adult fare.

If council approves that, it would take about eight to 10 weeks to produce the passes. They figured they could realistically field the passes by the week of April 9 — about a month after the fare hike comes in.

Cousins said the region actually brought in more fare cash than its ridership would have expected. The region's riders rode direct, getting straight on and off a region bus. That means off a region bus. That means off the full fare. It must split the cash with the cities if a rider transfers from a municipal system.

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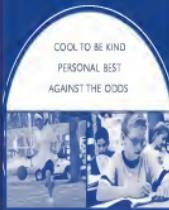
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Name of Nominee: _____

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Postal Code: _____ Telephone #: _____

Age: 6-12 13-18

Category: Cool to be Kind Against the odds Personal Best

NOMINATOR'S CHECKLIST

Before handing your nominations, please ensure you've completed the following steps:

Have You

- Signed the nomination form?
- Completed all sections of the nomination form?
- Provided a brief description of the nominee's contributions?

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Judging Criteria

Nominees must be a resident of Pelham, Port Colborne, Wainfleet or Welland. Their accomplishments must have occurred within the past year. There is a 1,000 word limit for all nominations. No additional material will be accepted. Judges will rate each nominee from 1-10 in the following:

- Who has the nominee accomplished during the past year?
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- Why did the nominee set out to do this?

24 Semi finalists will be honoured at the Great Kids Awards Gala on Sunday April 29th at Club Costopignano

COOL TO BE KIND Nominees will have performed a service or act of kindness, support or encouragement to a friend, family, neighbour or stranger with no personal gain for themselves. This could be on an ongoing or one-time service to an individual, group or community.

PERSONAL BEST Nominees will have achieved a level of performance beyond what might have been expected. This could mean achieving a top performance overall or performance to the best of their ability. Achievements can be in any area including business, academics, athletics, music, art, writing, drama, etc.

AGAINST THE ODDS Nominees will have shown great strength, ambition and dedication in overcoming a mental, physical, personal, economic or environmental challenge to achieve a goal.

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■ OPPORTUNITY: Port girl heads to Europe

To travel, or not to travel

MICHELLE PRESSÉ
For InPort News

It was December of my senior year when I admitted something to myself that I'd been trying to deny for a while.

I, Michelle Pressé, didn't want to go to school — I wanted to travel. This seed-of-an-idea was first planted in my head after I'd already tested out my applications to every journalism program in Ontario, with the range of walk-ons across a campus with very-covered buildings and spending my time studying flash cards was still slightly appealing.

I spent many sleepless nights arguing with myself and thinking: "To travel, or not to travel — that is the question." Eventually, I had the courage to admit these feelings to my parents, my current boyfriend, and my friends. But most impor-

tantly, I admitted this to myself, allowing my mind to wander into the great big world that went far beyond Port Credit.

When people heard that I was going to pursue traveling for one year, I got mixed reactions, and the most common question I got was, "Aren't you scared to move halfway across the world by yourself?" Of course I was scared. In fact, I was terrified. But I needed to get out of my comfort zone, and I decided that instead of going to university in the fall, I was going to move to Italy.

"Why Italy?" you ask. Of course there are a series of reasons, the most important being that this was the land that gave the world pizza, pasta and gelato. Italy is a country where beauty, passion and inspiration triumph, and I wanted to be a part of it. I'd never been. I did live in

France during grade 11 on exchange, which caused everyone to wonder why I wouldn't just return where I am and continue my education and speak the language.

First of all, if I went back to France, I wouldn't necessarily feel out of my comfort zone. And secondly, there wasn't enough pasta.

So I packed my bags and moved to Rome. Beautiful Rome, where the wine is expensive, the fashion is more blooming and the Michelangelo's marble statues. During my time off in high school I spoke to people who lived in Rome and found a job. I did all of this easily, and became an au pair.

An au pair is a young nanny who looks after children with the purpose of exposing them to the English language. I couldn't afford to do this on my own, but with the family for

free. In short, I'm getting paid to live in a beautiful 5 story house in the most historical part of Rome as long as I spend my time with children. It's a good life, but someone has to live it, right?

Throughout my journey, I've already traveled across Italy, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. I plan on visiting more countries before I kiss Rome sweet Rome goodbye in June, which is where my tourist visa ends.

I've already traveled across Italy, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. I plan on visiting more countries before I kiss Rome sweet Rome goodbye in June, which is where my tourist visa ends.

When people hear my story, a lot of people say, "I wish I could do that!" Let me just say that you can. I didn't win this experience — I made it happen. Anything and everything is possible with determination, which is why I decided to write this article. If anyone in high school is unsure about what to do after graduation, I encourage you to travel.

As my mom once said, "Home and school isn't going anywhere. When



Supplied photo

Michelle Pressé in front of the Pantheon.

wish I could do that?" Let me just say that you can. I didn't win this experience — I made it happen. Anything and everything is possible with determination, which is why I decided to write this article. If anyone in high school is unsure about what to do after graduation, I encourage you to travel.

As my mom once said, "Home and school isn't going anywhere. When

you're ready, it's here. But the opportunity to travel across Europe to study a new language, meet interesting people, see beautiful things and learn more than you ever could on a chalkboard? That's the kind of adventure that money can't buy." I couldn't possibly agree with her more.

If you're interested in reading more about my experience abroad, visit my blog at www.press17.blogspot.com.

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Box of 88 or 132



\$1

BRAVO SPAGHETTI SAUCE

680 ml can



\$1

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA "ANDY BOY" BROCCOLI



\$1
each

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA ICEBERG LETTUCE



\$1
each

NO. 1 GRADE ONTARIO ENGLISH CUCUMBERS



\$1
each

EXTRA FANCY ONTARIO AMBROSIA or MUTSU APPLES



99^c
lb.

CALIFORNIA SUNKIST SEEDLESS ORANGES



2⁹⁹
Dozen

NO. 1 GRADE FLORIDA GRAPE TOMATOES



2/\$4
Pkgs.